

The Panda Book Awards Shortlists 2016-2017

Compiled by the Panda Awards Steering Committee



MATURE READERS (grades 9 – 12)

Anderson, M. T. *Symphony for the City of the Dead*. An account of how composer Dmitri Shostakovich and his Leningrad Symphony rallied their fellow citizens during the Siege of Leningrad.

Rowell, Rainbow. *Carry On: The Rise and Fall of Simon Snow*. Simon Snow's girlfriend broke up with him, he's terrible at magic, his nemesis Baz is missing, and on top of all this he has threatening magical creatures to deal with. It's going to be a tough final year at the Watford School of Magicks.

Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap*. Eighteen-year-old Finn suffers from a disorder which means he can't distinguish between faces. When he is the only witness to the abduction of his classmate Roza, his disability makes it difficult for him to assist with the investigation—and only makes him more of an outsider in his quiet Midwestern town.

Sepetys, Ruta. *Salt to the Sea*. As World War II draws to a close, refugees try to escape the war's final dangers only to find themselves aboard a ship with a target on its hull.

Shusterman, Neal. *Challenger Deep*. Caden, a high-achieving high school senior, starts descending into mental illness while his family and friends try to figure out what is wrong with him.

Stevenson, Noelle. *Nimona*. Lord Ballister Blackheart seeks to bring down the institution of Law Enforcement and Heroics with the aid of his new shapeshifting sidekick Nimona.

Van Wageningen, Maya. *Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek*. Unhappy with her social position at school, Maya Van Wageningen decides to conduct a social experiment: for one year, she will follow the advice of a 1950s popularity guide.

Yoon, Nicola. *Everything, everything*. Madeline, literally allergic to the outside world, never leaves her room. But when a new boy moves in next door, she finds a complicated love that challenges everything she's ever known.

Every school year, the Panda Steering Committee promotes the Panda Book Awards reading initiative and publicizes lists of highly recommended books for readers in international schools in China. The four reading categories are: Younger Readers (EC3-grade 2), Middle Readers (grades 3-5), Older Readers (grades 6-8), and Mature Readers (grades 9-12). Each list consists of eight to ten titles that span a wide range of genres. Students are encouraged to read as many books from the list as possible and are invited to vote for their favorite book in the weeks after Chinese New Year.

The reading initiative is the responsibility of the Panda Steering Committee, a group of international librarians in China. These professionals volunteer to read, review and discuss book titles submitted by other librarians

or students. The goal of the Panda Book Awards initiative is to instill an enduring love of reading and to take students on an exciting reading adventure.

The Panda Book Awards initiative is now in its seventh year and its popularity has grown tremendously. During the first year, five international schools participated in voting. This year, over forty international schools joined the initiative, and over 5,700 students cast their votes.

In the fall, the Panda 2016-2017 books should be available at all participating schools. In the meantime, explore the hand-out and put the Panda titles on your summer reading list. Also visit the website <http://pandabookawards.wikispaces.com/> for more details on the Panda reading initiative.



(Books are listed in alphabetical order by author)



Barney, Saltzberg: *Chengdu Could Not, Would Not, Fall Asleep*. High in the trees in the middle of the night, all of the pandas are sleeping except for Chengdu, who tries everything and still cannot fall asleep until he finds the perfect spot atop his brother, Yuan.

Daywalt, Drew. *The Day the Crayons Came Home*. Companion book to: The Day the Crayons Quit. One day, Duncan is happily coloring with his crayons when a stack of postcards arrives in the mail from his former crayons, each of which has run away or been left behind, and all of which want to come home.

Gleeson, Libby. *The Cleo Stories 1: The Necklace and the Present*. Meet Cleo, a memorable character created by Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood. Delightful, warm and irresistible, these stories show how a little girl with a big imagination can always find a way to have fun.

Kobald, Irena. *My Two Blankets*. A little girl nicknamed "Cartwheel" moves to a different country where she can her family can all be safe, but Cartwheel has a hard time adjusting to her new home.

Reynolds, Aaron. *Nerdy Birdy*. A picture book about a dorky bird who just wants to hang out with the cool birds.

Bradley, Kimberly Brubaker: *The war that saved my life*. A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.

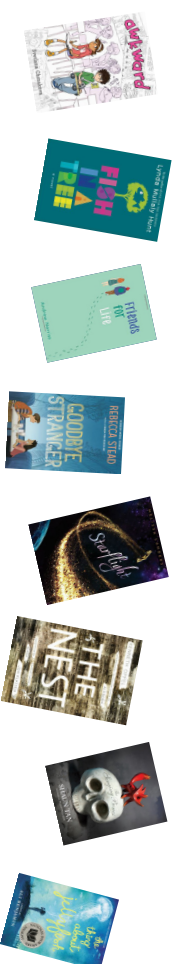
Cheaney, J. B. *Somebody On This Bus Is Going to Be Famous*. During a torrential rainstorm, a school bus goes off the road. With the driver unconscious, it is up to her passengers to try to rescue each other and go for help.

Harold, A. E. *The Imaginary*, Rudder, an imaginary playmate, must find his real friend Amanda before he fades away to nothing. Unfortunately he is also being hunted by the only other person who can see him, the evil Mr. Bunting, who hunts—and possibly even eats—imaginary friends.

jamieson, Victoria. *Roller Girl*. A graphic novel adventure about a girl who discovers roller derby right as she and her best friend are growing apart.

Seiznick Brian. **The Marvels.** Billy Marvel is shipwrecked, rescued, and goes on to found a brilliant family of actors which flourishes in London until 1900. Nearly a century later, Joseph Jervis is captivated by the portraits and ghostly presences of the Marvel house.

Tashjian, Janet: *My Life as a Gamer*. Derek Fallon gets the chance of a lifetime when he is asked to test software for new video games, but he soon discovers that his dream job isn't all it's cracked up to be.



Benjamin, Ali: *The Thing about Jellyfish*. Twelve-year-old Suzy Swanson investigates the rare jellyfish she is convinced was responsible for the death of her best friend.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. ***Fish in a Tree***. Ally's greatest fear is that everyone will find out that she still doesn't know how to read.

Norris, Andrew. *Friends for Life*. Francis Meredith is a boy who is bullied for his interest in fashion and costuming. His life begins to change when he makes friends with Jessica and Andi, a ghost.

Sleed, Rebecca. *Goodbye Stranger*. As Bridge makes her way through seventh grade on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her best friends, Em, Tab, and a curious new friend, she finds the answers she has been seeking.

Tan, Shaun. *The Singing Bones*. This book leads readers through the tales of the Brothers Grimm accompanied by sculptures. Fuller descriptions of the tales are included in the back matter, along with suggestions of where to read complete retellings.